

Amendments to Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-119. (Cancelled)

120. (Currently amended) A method for handling status information about a telephone conference having two or more conferees, at least one conferee using a telephone on an SS7 controlled network comprising:

receiving at a switch interface a message containing at least one number corresponding to a selected telephone on the SS7 controlled network to be rung up and brought on line for the conference;

sending from the switch interface via an IP network a message indicating the selected telephone has been successfully brought on line for the conference;

receiving at the switch interface via the SS7 controlled network an SS7 message containing information indicating a disconnect of the selected telephone from the conference; and

sending from the switch interface via the IP network a disconnect message responsive to said SS7 message.

121. (Previously presented) The method of claim 120 wherein the message containing at least one number is received by the switch interface via the IP network.

122. (Previously presented) The method of claim 121 further comprising converting the message containing at least one telephone number to an SS7 message for ringing up the selected telephone for the conference.

123. (Previously presented) The method of claim 122 further comprising receiving at the switch interface an SS7 message that characterizes ringing.

124. (Previously presented) The method of claim 123 further comprising receiving at the switch interface, prior to sending the message indicating the selected telephone has been successfully brought on line for the conference, an SS7 message that characterizes an off-hook condition.

125. (Currently amended) A method for handling status information about a telephone conference having two or more conferees, at least one conferee using a telephone on an SS7 controlled network, the method performed at a switch interface comprising:

receiving a message containing at least one number corresponding to a selected telephone on the SS7 controlled network to be rung up and brought on line for the conference;

receiving via the SS7 controlled network an SS7 message that characterizes ringing;

receiving via the SS7 controlled network an SS7 message that characterizes an off-hook condition;

sending via an IP network a message indicating the selected telephone has been successfully brought on line for the conference;

receiving via the SS7 controlled network an SS7 message containing information indicating a disconnect of the selected telephone from the conference; and

sending via the IP network a disconnect message responsive to said SS7 message containing information indicating the disconnect.

126. (Previously presented) The method of claim 125 wherein the message containing at least one number is received via the IP network.

127. (Previously presented) The method of claim 125 further comprising converting the message containing at least one number to an SS7 message for ringing up the selected telephone for the conference.

128. (Previously presented) The method of claim 125 wherein the message indicating the selected telephone has been successfully brought on line is responsive to said SS7 message that characterizes an off-hook condition.